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**(Minutes)**

**TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES  
MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2008**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Present: Carol Keenan, Chairperson  
Joan Haines, Vice Chairperson  
Jim Grise  
Kathleen Sullivan  
Barbara Blejewski  
Frank Meunier, Jr.  
Chris Taylor

Liaison: Natalie Morrison, Parks and Recreation Department

Guest Speaker: Carol Taylor

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**III. MINUTES of the May 21, 2008 meeting.**

A MOTION was made by Barbara Blejewski to accept the Minutes of September 17, 2008. Seconded by Frank Meunier, Jr. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Group Home Visits**

Special Olympics bowling has started. Special Olympians are looking forward to the Track and Field program. The Thanksgiving Dinner is being held Tuesday November 11, 2008 and the Holiday Party is being held Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

**B. Seniors**

Advisory is looking for speakers in the spring.

**Energy Assistance Program** – Guidelines can be obtained from Social and Youth Services Department

**Operation Fuel** – Grants up to \$500 are available, December 1, 2008 is the deadline for applying. Contact Social and Youth Services for more information.

**Oil** – Individuals and families can apply and receive assistance from November through March. There is expanded eligibility for homeowners.

Frank said HMO Whole Health is leaving because state social services didn't support them for state and federal funding.

Open enrollment is going on for Medicare Part D. Contact Social and Youth Services for more information.

### **C. Parks and Recreation**

The Wethersfield Health Care Center is sponsoring the Santa Pancake Breakfast "Santa Room". All proceeds benefit Special Olympics – Wethersfield Programs. The Wethersfield Health Care Center is also donating money for the Holiday Party and a side dish for the Thanksgiving Dinner.

The Thanksgiving Dinner is being held Tuesday November 11, 2008 and will be a potluck dinner. The turkey will be provided. Anyone attending is invited to bring an assigned food donation. The WACPD will be making a donation to be used for the Thanksgiving Dinner.

The Holiday Party is being held Tuesday, December 16, 2008. Appetizers, desserts and refreshments will be provided.

Special Olympics – The golf teams did well. Basketball and Bowling started last month. Two teams will be competing in a Unified Basketball Division Tournament in October and the State Tournament in November. Eleven of the 25 bowling athletes will compete in the qualifier and state tournament in November.

### **D. Transportation/Dial-A-Ride**

Transportation issues will be discussed at the January 2009 meeting held at the First Church complex.

ITN – There are some glitches. Hopefully those issues will be taken care of and it will start as soon as possible.

### **E. Update on Resource Booklet**

Changes to the Resource Booklets have been made. Jim will e-mail copies for review by the Committee for grammatical errors and comments. Changes will be made to the table of contents so that the Braille and print copies match page numbers.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

The Wethersfield High School Physics Club needs to design a high tech assistive device for the special needs population. 12 schools are participating. Five will be chosen to go to Washington, DC. Students are asked to study the disabilities and ask questions. Committee members are encouraged to attend the October 28 meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Wethersfield High School to provide input and suggestions.

**VI. OTHER**

Guest Speaker Carol Taylor of the Rocky Hill Library for the Blind, National Library of Congress spoke to the Committee. The talking books program is Nationwide and service transfers from state to state. Equipment and books go with the individual. There are 10,000 patrons in Connecticut.

Machines are being updated. Keep the old ones and get new ones. New ones have flash memory. They have been tested for damage and longevity. Flash Drives will be the size of cassettes for continuity for users. These machines are being phased in and there is no cost to the recipient. Radio shack has a volume control that attaches to the machines for bed use instead of having to use machine. Finger extensions make it easier to press buttons with less pressure. Persons with reading disabilities need a doctor's note. Reader advisors are available to assist with detailed suggestions and selection. Twin Vision books are also available. This is a print book with Braille overlay. Their motto is "All may read, families share together." The visually impaired may read a book to a son, daughter, grandchild, nephew, etc.

Open 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sensory Garden available for touching and smelling. It is very nice. Two picnic table are available.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen A. Knapp  
Recording Secretary

Meeting adjourned.

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